97

Friday

Leonard is away, so I can't answer for our coming for certain on Sunday; humanly speaking we will – & bring as per so kindly suggest, Saxon, Barbara, Lloyd Collins, who; taking Fish Kaa for 6 years: also, perhaps, one of the Olivers, & Morgan.

But I don't see what the use of my wasting vocables on you, since the only upshot is confusion worse confounded.

Think of my post card, write it explicit directions not to come after 3

97[s]

if it was fine, but to come before 5 if it was wet — what a mess you made of it.

Hoping to see you Sunday

Your old familiar

Wolf.

NYPL

Romer 3/10/68

Helen is going to Romney for the summer. We dined there with the Kenneth Kennedys – too many handkerchiefs in the hot for my taste, which may be hypercritical, of course. One has a sense of ashes in the soup. One of her legs – supposing she were a fly & had 6 – has come off. But it was all very nice. Then we had Bob. – Ive no room.

Dearest, 1927 Saturday, July 23rd. 98

I have written to Ethel, which I suppose I should have done before. I'm coming on Wednesday – a little alarmed, as I foresee you: Duncan will be occupied all day, & I shall have to do my tricks with Ethel (now don't leave me partly as a relief from Ottoline, Tolstoy & Harris. Not that I've had as many lunches as I should like. I'm now competent to drive alone in the country, he says. I think this a very satisfactory employment. & he says (but this may be flattery) that I'm well above the average. We both have the same fault – gear-changing is very good. We keep too much to the left. But my gear-changing is very good.

Yesterday, a frozen affair, though the service always fills my eyes with tears. Also the grotesqueness is so great. The Strachey women were of inconceivable drabness on one side, Aunt Loo having also an aroma of hypocrisy about her which makes me vomit; on the other side (but the

Judge in frock coat & top hat, like a shop walker. He got locked into his pew, & could not get out, & apt at the last moment, to sign the register. He mistook the hinge for the door handle. Julia was highly self possessed, & then Angus was glowering behind us. I daresay he takes it to heart, though I repeat for the 1000th time; I cannot see the physical charm of that little woodpecker man. They dined with us afterwards. I handed on your Curse, just before the ceremony – Nessa's curse on marriage, as it is called; & has been known to strike a bride dead on the altar steps.

Vita has had a letter from Clive telling her the good news that he is now completely happy. He is treating him well; he has nothing left to wish for. I think that Parrakeet is one of the raiment & trilleit of fools: if he can make us think that he gives to bed with Vanessa Valerie, that's all he wants. I believe half his misery has been outraged vanity. Now he's Don Juan again, nothing matters. But I very much doubt that he is Don Juan. I hear he's gone to Charleston. I also hear that Fred can't get off till 4 on Saturday, so Leonard won't be able to meet us. Fred will stay the night, & motor us to Charleston next day. Then you will see me take the wheel & return. This an awesome sight.

But all this will be told you when we go to our rooms to wash hands. How fascinating the whole thing will be! Duncan reading – "the kettled lifes of graves" the ladies sewing; but how Bells (just one thing on the other, not a man nor a woman, so what he to do? run up the ladies Kurts. Nan

tarifies me. Ethel makes me silly. But the food will be nice, & Nessa will kiss me. VB.

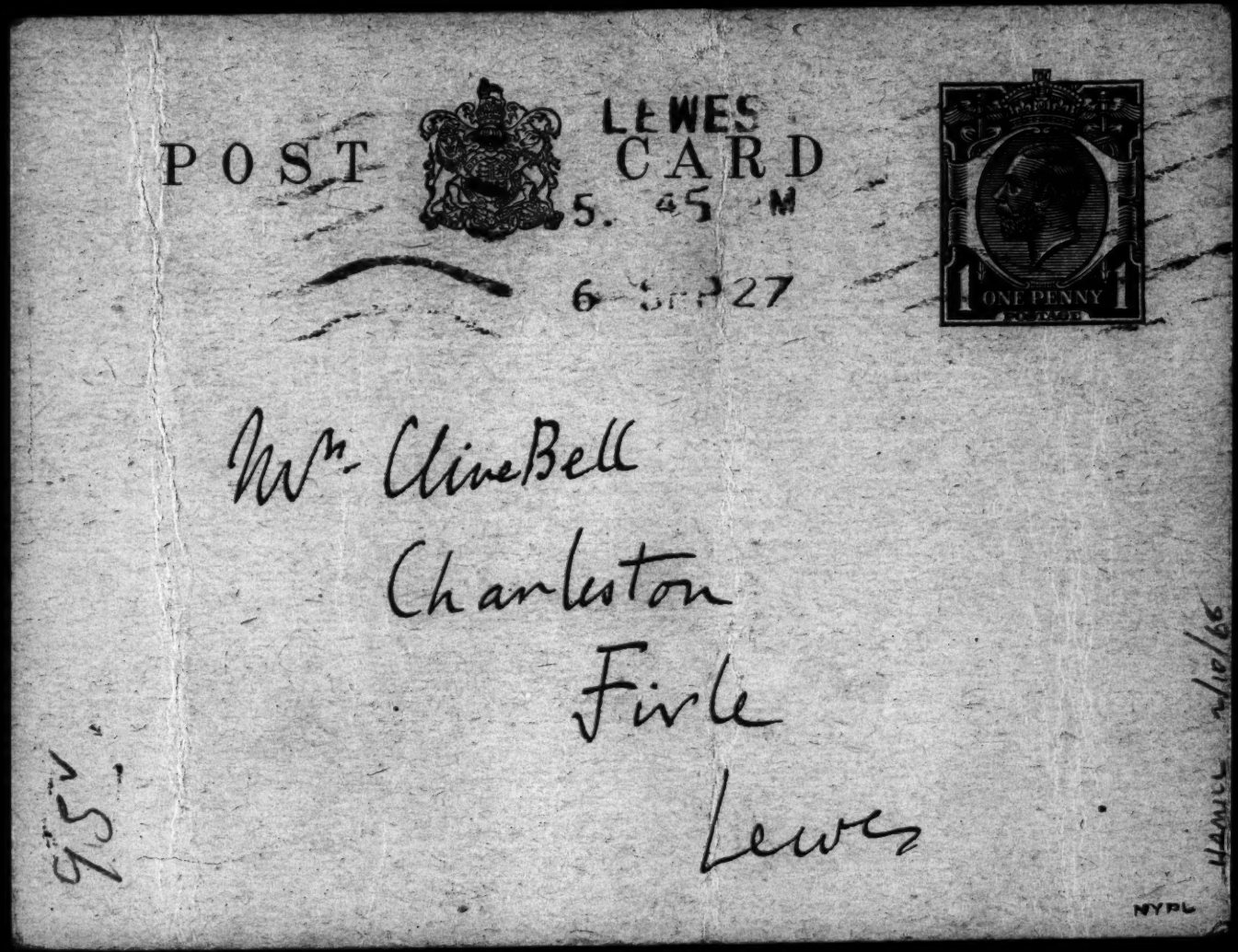
Monks. Wednesday

Vanessa,

I see there's a bus which would get us to 4pm about 1.45, so if that's fine on Friday we will come to lunch, & perhaps go rather earlier (but we must have time for a good gossip)

I wish you'd signed your cover. Privately I thought it lovely – so did Lytton – but I was too much dashed by your letter to say so. The lines on the back were a great improvement. Your style is unique; because so truthful; & therefore at variance completely. Still I see what you mean.

VB


POST CARD

LEWES
5. 45 M
6 SEP 27

ONE PENNY

Mrs. Clive Bell
Charleston
Firle
Lewes

95

Hamill 7/10/65

NYPL

Tuesday 95

We shall be ready to
go on picnic tomorrow if fine
between 2 & 3, if you
like to come: but can't
go Thursday or Friday.

V. W.

We shd. be much pleased
if you & family would
come to tea any day

(1927)

93a

Monk Horne,
Rudmell

Thursday
Sept. 29th

Dearest,

How good, how faithful, how tender, how devoted I am, to sit down to write to you. And I've given up hope of reward. And Heaven knows if you're alive. You were last heard of at Crawley. All the children were pottering (Nic heads (Angelica's brother Julian)) out of the window to look for you. You may still be marooned at Crawley or dead, or at Gordon Square: they

93av

Thrones you, (a by the way, it occurs to
me that you are fundamentally mysterious)
Still I write.

I have a little favour to ask of you,
this time. Could I, if necessity
obliges, lodge at 37 from Monday or Tuesday
to Thursday next week? I
should only want a bed, a cook my
own breakfast: I've had to let
Nelly go home to a wedding, & we
can't get in to 52 till Thursday.
Should the endotermic hire become
intolerable, as they threaten, I
think I shall depart, leaving
Leonard, who means to stay in
spite of everything.

But this is only a bolt hole in

care of emergency. And I daresay you are occupied at 37. So don't bother to upset anything.

I had an odd interview, entirely unexpected, with Clive, when we came to get Leonard hat & you were at Crawley. He suddenly became moved, indeed emotional — as I expect he did to you — & told me, as I've no doubt he told you — how he has found a new love. In case it may be a different version, I will repeat. Before leaving London he said, he met an entrancing girl, less than half his age, witty, beautiful, sought after. He had an instant success; but could not believe that she was serious. Many obstacles prevented their meeting — extreme secrecy was essential, as

She is closely supervised. However, beyond
belief, they had four days together last month
of entrancing happiness. Incredible though it
seems she has declared herself
passionately in love with him.
Their jaunt succeeded completely. Though
he dare not trust himself, even her-
self to control himself, he now believes
that the feeling may be permanent on
her part. If so, his happiness will be
incredible. He is living in the wildest
state of excitement. NYPL He has letters &
telegrams from her incessantly. He was
going to lunch with her yesterday, &
on Monday when he comes back,
the drama will begin. He
swore that he could not on any
account give her name, for reasons
which affect her, not him. He
says however that they can only

93c

meet at long intervals as she is much occupied, & often, I gathered, away. But he hopes that it will mean that he see more of his old friends than for some time past. Not a word about Mary. Leonard came in or I think — we were both by this time in such a state of emotion — he would have told me who she is.

I saw Valerie Taylor. though her talked often with the appearance of indifference. She is young & she: also her acting makes her often away: also she has some liaison with some man which might make secrecy necessary. However, you may know all, in which case, please tell me.

There is a rumour here of complete

93c v

disruption, finality & misery. This
journey hard & blowing a gale.
I have had a visit of two hours
from old Mr. Hawkesford which
pleased me, & he said we could
now set £2,000 for Monk Horne:
in which case I think I shall sell, &
buy a villa on the Coast of Italy.

NYPL

Love to Ethel & Nan, provided
you are not settled down more
or less permanently at Crawley.
We were amused, mixed pleased, at
Least Leonard was, to hear you had
both failed at your exam.

Let me know about 37.

& write

& Kiss Duncan

JJB.

HAMILL 2/10/68